

# PRESS RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## **Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny urges New Hampshire residents to review their insurance policies in the new year**

**Concord, NH - January 26, 2007** – Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny reminds consumers that the beginning of the new year is a good time to look over all of your insurance policies to make sure you have the policies you need in the right amounts.

“Everyone should carefully assess all of their insurance policies to make sure they have the right types of coverage to fit their individual needs,” Sevigny says. “Knowing exactly what is in your insurance policies will better ensure that you will be protected if a loss occurs.”

It is a good idea to schedule a routine “check-up” with your insurance providers at least once a year. When doing your “check-up” it is important to look at all insurance coverages, including home, auto, health and life. Also consider purchasing policies you may not currently have—like flood insurance. Always shop around for identical products and services, since not every company charges the same rate. And remember that an insurance policy is a legal document, so read it carefully.

### **Homeowners Insurance**

- Even if you are not required by your mortgage lender to purchase flood insurance, consider purchasing a federal flood insurance policy. You should never assume your property won’t be damaged by flooding. You can also buy a flood insurance policy to cover the contents of your home, such as furniture, clothing and other items that could be lost if your home is flooded.

### **Auto Insurance**

- Talk to your agent about ways you can reduce your coverage costs, including improving your driving habits, choosing a higher deductible policy, installing

safety equipment in your vehicle or purchasing multiple types of policies from the same company.

### **Health Insurance**

- If you are married and both spouses are offered employer health coverage, compare the two plans to determine which one best fits your needs. Be sure to evaluate the monthly premiums, co-pay requirements, deductibles and reimbursements levels.
- Consider alternatives to traditional health insurance, like Health Savings Accounts.
- If you or a family member have certain medical conditions or have had a health insurance policy application rejected, you may be eligible for coverage through the New Hampshire Health Plan, which can be contacted at <http://www.nhhealthplan.org> or 1-877-888-NHHP (6447).

### **Life Insurance**

- When buying a life insurance policy, be sure to buy a policy that is sufficient to compensate for the loss of your annual gross income for several years.
- Review your policy every 12 months or whenever there is a major change in your life, such as a marriage or the birth of a child.

“The Department is not only your best source for all insurance-related questions, but we also have the best understanding of insurance issues that are specific to New Hampshire,” Sevigny says.

For more information, call the New Hampshire Insurance Department toll free at 1-800-842-3416, or visit our Web site, [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance).

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### **ABOUT THE NH INSURANCE DEPARTMENT**

The first insurance regulator in the United States, the NH Insurance Department was created in 1851 and charged with enforcing and administering New Hampshire’s insurance laws. The department, an agency of the executive branch of New Hampshire state government, conducts safety and soundness and market conduct examinations of licensees, licenses insurance companies and insurance producers, reviews premium rates and policy forms, provides assistance, information and referral services to New Hampshire insurance consumers, and administers the filing and collection of New Hampshire’s insurance premium tax. For more information, visit the Insurance Department’s web site at: [www.nh.gov/insurance](http://www.nh.gov/insurance).